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EQC Releases Children's Environmental Health Report

The Environmental Quality Commission released its report on Children's Environmental Health in Kentucky at Issac Shelby Elementary School in Louisville on Oct. 13.

Since 1992, EQC has been monitoring environmental trends and conditions in Kentucky. These reports have revealed that we have made much progress in restoring water and air quality, but much more remains to be done to reverse the negative effects of pollution on the environment and public health. This is especially true when it comes to the health of our children. In Kentucky, children represent 25 percent of the state's population and 100 percent of our future. Children are more exposed and more vulnerable to hazards in the environment. Pound for pound, kids breathe more air, drink more fluids, and eat more food than do adults.

The core set of 18 indicators along with an interactive CD-Rom that includes county level data is intended to improve our understanding about children's environmental health and advance strong and sustaining children's environmental health policies in the Commonwealth. The indicators focus on childhood asthma and cancer, waterborne diseases, behavioral disorders and birth defects.

Report Highlights

[Continued page 7.....see Children's Health](#)

EQC Issues Mercury Recommendations



The Environmental Quality Commission issued a set of recommendations at its August public meeting to strengthen state efforts to protect public health and the environment from the hazards of mercury. They call for additional measures to reduce mercury risks through awareness, education and a targeted action strategy and include

- The Kentucky Division for Air Quality and the Kentucky Division of Water initiate a comprehensive rainwater-testing program for mercury and work to correlate air and rainwater sampling with fish tissue and bioaccumulation data.
- Target additional fish consumption education and awareness efforts at high-risk lakes and streams based on fish tissue mercury concentrations and locations likely to have the greatest number of subsistence and recreational fisherman
- Commit to including public outreach about the risks of mercury in Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plans.
- The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection assess priority Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic pollutants (PBT) to be present and/or released to the environment in Kentucky and develop an action plan to reduce the risks posed to public health and the environment. To view the entire set of recommendations visit www.eqc.ky.gov

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STATE NEWS

Governor Announces Funding for Cleanups at 82 Dump Sites



Governor Ernie Fletcher announced today that \$4,578,000 in matching funds will be distributed from the Kentucky Pride Fund for cleanup of 82 illegal dump sites in 34 counties. The Kentucky Pride Fund is administered by the Kentucky Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. The sites were selected from a list of 1,173 open dumps reported to the state by counties.

State funding for the dump cleanup is derived from a \$1.75 environmental remediation fee for each ton of garbage generated in Kentucky and disposed of at municipal solid waste disposal facilities. The Pride Fund marks the first time there has been a legislated and ongoing source of state funding. The estimated cost of the first-round cleanup is \$6,105,000. Participating counties will provide a 25 percent match. To view the projects visit <http://governor.ky.gov/mediaroom/pressreleases/20040924PRIDE.htm>

State Workgroup to Study Air Toxics In Kentucky



The Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet has created a statewide air toxins workgroup in response to concerns about toxic air pollutants in the Commonwealth. Experts in toxicology, environmental policy and risk assessment will serve on the workgroup, which will address the extent of elevated levels of toxic air pollutants in Kentucky's industrialized areas and population centers.

Task Force members are: Arnita Gadson of the West Jefferson County Community Task Force; Gautam Trivedi of URS, an environmental consulting company; Don Neman of Rohm and Haas Company; Carolyn Embry of the American Lung Association; Dale Duhon of ATOFINA Chemicals Inc.; Charles Bennett, Marathon Ashland; Mark Klan, a toxicologist with Environmental Toxicology and Risk Assessment LLC; Tom Fitzgerald of the Kentucky Resources Council; Sharon Dodson of LG & E Energy Corporation; and Art Williams of the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District.

The state task force will not preempt local air toxic initiatives including those underway in Jefferson County. A draft regulation to require companies to significantly reduce emissions of toxic chemicals into Louisville's air to better protect citizens' health and ensure quality of life was issued on Sept. 16, 2004. The proposed framework – the Strategic Toxic Air Reduction (STAR) Program – focuses first on reducing the levels of 18 toxic chemicals that have been proven through extensive air monitoring to exceed the federal health risk goal – a 1 in 1 million risk of developing cancer from lifetime exposure. The companies that are the largest sources of one of the 18 toxic chemicals – such as butadiene and arsenic – must begin reporting information to the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District next year that will determine whether they exceed the health risk goal. By 2007, those companies must lower their toxic emissions of the 18 chemicals to meet the goal. To view the proposed regulations visit <http://www.apcd.org/star/>

Approval of Kentucky Pioneer Power Plant Withdrawn



The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) has withdrawn its approval of an agreement by East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc. (EKPC) to purchase electric power from the proposed Kentucky Pioneer Energy, LLC generating plant in Clark County. In an order issued on Oct. 17, the PSC said it was withdrawing the approval because of uncertainty over when the plant would be built and whether it would be able to provide power at competitive prices. When it became clear in 2001 that the Kentucky Pioneer Energy plant would not be completed as originally scheduled, EKPC applied for and received PSC approval to build its own generating facility. That plant, the 268-megawatt Gilbert Unit at EKPC's Spurlock Generating Station near Maysville, is due to begin operations in 2005 and will meet EKPC's near-term power needs. To view the order see psc.ky.gov. The case numbers are 2000-00079 and 2003-00030.

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CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Oct. 26-27 - 28th Governor's Conference on the Environment. Hyatt Regency, Lexington. The theme of this year's conference is, "Protecting the Environment, Prospering the Economy. Contact Boyce Wells at (502) 564-3350 or see www.environment.ky.gov

Oct. 26-27 Kentucky Rural Water Association drinking water and wastewater training session-To review sampling, disinfection and problem solving skills. Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, Prestonsburg. Register at www.krwa.org or call (270) 843-2291.

Oct. 28-29 Growth, Development & the Future of Southeast Water Supplies - The Southeast Watershed Roundtable and the Tennessee State Watershed Roundtable will host over 40 speakers at this major regional conference being held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee on , 2004. Speakers will cover sessions on: Growing Greener Communities, Natural Context Highway Design, Farmland Protection & Rural Issues, and Saving Aquatic Habitat & Open Space. See www.southeastwaterforum.org/roundtables

Oct. 30 - Forestry Field Day - Dinsmore Homestead, Boone County. Help landowners learn more about forest management. Contact (859) 586-7903.

November 9-10 - Kentucky Rural Water Association -Math and Regulations Review - to improve math skills for drinking and wastewater operations while developing a better understanding of applicable regulations for water and wastewater operators. Lake Cumberland State Resort Park, Jamestown. Register at www.krwa.org or call (270) 843.2291.

Nov. 16 - Getting Ahead of the Curve: A Working Conference to Generate Ideas, Innovations, and an Agenda for Future Prosperity. Lexington Convention Center. Sponsored by the Kentucky Long-term Policy Research Center this annual conference will focus on future economic development issues in Kentucky. See <http://www.kltprc.net/conference2004.htm> or call (800) 853-2851.

Nov. 16-17 - Farming on the Edge: Meeting the Challenge - American Farmland Trust National Conference, Lexington. Across the country people are developing sound policies and programs to protect the best land, keep it healthy and plan for its future. Speakers include Wendell Berry, Roger Bingham, Gov. Ernie Fletcher, Laura Freemand and Christine Todd Whitman. Call (202) 331-7300 or visit www.farmland.org/conference2004/

November 16-18 - Utility Management 101. Kentucky Rural Water Association and Western Kentucky University. Will provide information on drinking and wastewater regulations, basics in financing and organization. General Butler State Resort Park, Carrollton. Register at www.krwa.org or call (270) 843-2291.

Fall Fire Season Begins



The fall forest fire hazard season begins Oct. 1 in Kentucky. Until it ends Dec. 15, burning within 150 feet of a woodland or brushland is illegal from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The national Firewise Communities Program recommends keeping at least a 30-foot mowed buffer area around homes, water hoses long enough to reach

Most forest fires in Kentucky are arson. Wildland arsonists have burned nearly half a million acres of Kentucky's forests in the last five years. Suspected arsonists should be reported to the Target Arson Hotline at **1-800-27-ARSON**, any local law enforcement office or the division. Callers to the Target Arson hotline are eligible for a cash reward if the information leads to an arrest and indictment.

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PUBLIC NOTICES/HEARINGS - PERMITS

This is not a complete or official listing. Contact the various divisions for more information about these and other permits open for public comment.

Ky. Division of Water - KPDES Water Discharge Notices/Hearings



Contact Ann Workman, (502) 564-3410 or see <http://www.water.ky.gov/publicassistance/notices>

•**Valley View Landfill**, Republic Services of Kentucky, LLC, Sulphur (Trimble County). Permit action involves an existing discharge of storm water runoff from a solid waste landfill. **Public Hearing to be held Nov. 16** at 6 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Service Building, 43 High Country Road, Bedford.

•**West County Wastewater Treatment Plant**, Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District. Permit is being modified in this reissuance because the plant is scheduled to be reworked to allow a re-rating of the design capacity from 19.5 million gallons per day to 30 million gallons per day. The construction changes are to sludge handling and transport to the MSD Morris Forman plant.

•**TRI - K Landfill, Inc.**, Stanford (Lincoln County). Permit action involves an existing discharge of storm water runoff from a contained landfill.

•**Morehead Wastewater Treatment Plant** Morehead (Rowan County). Permit action involves modification of an existing source discharge from a publicly owned treatment works that enters the Licking River to allow for the expansion from 2.5 million gallons per day to 5.0 million gallons per day.

•**Ashland Route 3 Landfill**, Ashland Incorporated, Catlettsburg (Boyd County). Permit action involves an existing discharge of treated groundwater, landfill leachate and storm water runoff from a hazardous waste landfill that enters Chadwick Creek.

•**Cobra Coal Company**, Garrard (Clay County). Permit action involves a new source discharge of process water from coal washing activities and drainage from a coal preparation plant that enters Goose Creek.

•**Patriot Coal Company, Ltd.**, Henderson (Henderson County). Permit action involves a new source discharge of process water from a coal preparation plant that enters the Green River.

Ky. Division of Waste Management - Solid Waste Notices/Hearings



Contact: Ron Gruzesky, (502) 564-6716, or see <http://www.waste.ky.gov/news>

•**Valley View Landfill**, Republic Services of Kentucky, LLC, Sulphur (Trimble County) - Construction/operation permit issued on Sept. 22 to expand the landfill area horizontally by approximately 84 acres, and vertically over portions of existing waste disposal areas.

•**BFI Waste Systems Benson Valley Landfill**, Frankfort - Request from BFI Waste Systems of North America, Inc. to withdraw permit application to expand the landfill after local determination was invalidated.

•**Pike County Landfill (Ford's Branch)**, Pikeville - Application from the Pike County Fiscal Court to extend expiration date of landfill to Jan. 29, 2013.

•**Hopkinsville Landfill** - Application from the City of Hopkinsville to extend the expiration date of the landfill to Feb. 16, 2008.

Kentucky Division of Waste Management -Hazardous Waste Notices



Contact John Moore, (502) 564-6716 or see <http://www.waste.ky.gov/news/default.htm>

•**Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant**, Paducah (McCracken County). On September 30 a hazardous waste storage and treatment permit was reissued at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The permit was issued to the U.S. Department of Energy and Bechtel Jacobs, L.L.C., will take effect on October 31, 2004 and expire on October 31, 2014.

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PUBLIC NOTICES/HEARINGS - PERMITS

This listing is not official. Contact the various divisions for more information about these and other permits open for public comment.

Ky. Division for Air Quality Permit Notices



Contact: James Morse, (502) 573-3382 or see http://www.air.ky.gov/homepage_repository/Public+Notices.htm

- **Weyerhaeuser Company, Kentucky Mills**, Hawesville (Hancock County). To construct/operate a pulp and paper mill in Hawesville.
- **Gallatin Steel Company**, Ghent (Carroll County). Permit to operate a steel mini-mill facility to produce rolled steel from scrap that will emit criteria and hazardous air pollutants.
- **Kentucky Department of Military Affairs**, Lexington. Bluegrass Station Division has applied for a source wide permit to construct/operate a military equipment maintenance facility.
- **Logan Aluminum**, Russellville (Logan County). Permit to modify coating line and reversing mill operations.
- **Fort James Operating Company**, Lexington (Fayette County). Permit to operate a sanitary food container manufacturing facility.
- **Jim Beam Brands Company**, Boston (Nelson County). Permit to modify the operation of existing distillery.

Ky. Transportation Cabinet Public Notices/Hearings



To view these announcements <http://roadprojects.ky.gov/>

- **Reconstruction from KY 954 in Garrard County to Wallace Mill Road in Madison County**. Public Meeting on Nov. 4, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Paint Lick Elementary School.
- **New Interstate from Somerset to London**. Public Meeting on Nov. 29, from 5 to 8 p.m. at London Community Center and Nov. 30, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Center for Rural Development Somerset.
- **KY 2448 Replace Bridge and Approaches, North Fork Kentucky River at Woodland Park**. Public Meeting on Oct. 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hazard City Hall 700 Main St. Hazard.

Kentucky State Board on Electric Generation and Transmission Siting

See http://psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/siting_board/merchant.htm



- **Estill Energy Partners LLC**, Irvine (Estill County) - The Siting Board has granted a certificate to Estill County Energy Partners, LLC to build a \$150 million 110-megawatt plant on 20 acres of a 620 acre site previously used for coal processing. The certificate will not become effective until a dispute over ownership of portions of the property is resolved. The order also imposed a number of conditions that would mitigate the visual, traffic and noise impacts of the proposed facility. The plant would burn primarily waste coal now stockpiled at the site. The site contains enough fuel to last 25 to 30 years, the company said in its application.

Kentucky Public Service Commission

See <http://psc.ky.gov>.



- **Kentucky-American Water Company** - The Public Service Commission will hold a **Public Hearing on Nov. 4** from 5-9 p.m. at Dunbar High School Auditorium in Lexington to receive public comments on a rate increase requested by Kentucky American Water Company. The company serves 108,000 customers in 10 counties in central Kentucky and is seeking to increase annual revenue by \$7.3 million or 16.8 percent. The average monthly residential bill would rise to \$21.50, from \$18.65. Contact: Andrew Melnykovich at (502) 564-3940, ext. 208.

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GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Clean Buses
for Kids



Clean Buses for Kids - The Clean Buses for Kids Program provides funds to school districts to purchase and install emission control equipment to reduce diesel particulate emissions from school buses and offset costs associated with the ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel required by that equipment. Twenty million dollars is available nationwide. The project was undertaken in connection with the enforcement settlement with the Toyota Motor Corporation, brought on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Air Act. Visit <http://www.cleanbusesforkids.com/>

FEDERAL NOTICES/INFORMATION

Environmental Groups Sue EPA for Failure to Promulgate Kentucky Antidegradation Rule. On Sept. 21, the Floyds Fork Environmental Association, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Kentucky Waterways Alliance and the Cumberland Chapter of the Sierra Club filed a "citizens suit" under the Clean Water Act against the U.S. EPA. The suit alleges that EPA has failed to finalize "a Tier II antidegradation standard" for Kentucky, after the state's standard was ruled deficient by the federal agency in 1997. Antidegradation standards are rules that protect water from new pollution that has not been shown to be necessary to accommodate important social or economic development. The suit seeks a federal court order directing EPA to finalize water-quality standards for Kentucky within 30 days. The suit can be viewed at <http://www.kyrc.org/webnewspro/109605015249800.shtml> In the meantime, the Kentucky Division of Water submitted revised antidegradation rules to the U.S. EPA on Sept. 23. The EPA has 60 days to approve or 90 days to disapprove the regulations. See the rules at <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/kar/401/005/030.htm>

Daniel Boone National Forest Notices. See http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/planning/sopa_10_05.pdf

- **Southfork Coal Lease** - Add 65 acres for deep mining in McCreary and Whitley counties.
- **Chas Coal Environmental Assessment** - Subsurface mining of 315 acres of coal in Clay County.
- **2003 Ice Storm Recovery Environmental Assessment** - Several projects to aid in ice storm recovery including tree removal, pond construction and control of non-native invasive plants in Bath and Rowan counties.
- **Middle Fork Prescribed Burn** - Burning on 1,888 acres to increase biodiversity and reduce fuel levels.

Stop Sale Issued for Diazinon. The U.S. EPA has issued a notice to pesticide retailers to remind them of the upcoming stop-sale date for all outdoor diazinon home, lawn and garden products. After the 12/31/2004, the sale of diazinon outdoor, non-agricultural use products will be unlawful. See <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/op/diazinon.htm>.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

OSM Twenty-Second Annual Evaluation Report for Kentucky Coal Mining and Abandoned Mine Land Program details status of the state's regulatory and abandoned mine programs. Facts include:

- Complaints - 714 complaints with responses to 572.
- Violations - 1,360 violations, 42 imminent harm cessation violations, 396 failure-to-abate cessation violations.
- Bond Forfeitures - 89 sites with bonds forfeited comprising 2,042 acres
- Greatest violators - Lodestar Energy (150 violations), Consol of Kentucky (69 violations), Leslie Resources (62 violations). Contact Thomas Koppe (859) 260-8400 or see <http://www.osmre.gov/report04.htm>

MACED Offers Free handbook for Kentucky Forest Landowners. The Mountain Association for Community Economic Development has developed a handbook for woodland owners on inheritance laws and timber contracts, among other topics. To order the handbook, go to <http://www.maced.org/forestry/handbook.htm>

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EQC ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR PROGRAM

Reporting on environmental trends and conditions in Kentucky

Children's Environmental Health Report..continued from page 1

Asthma. Asthma is by far the most common chronic disease of childhood. It is responsible for more missed days of school and more hospitalizations than any other childhood illness.

Childhood asthma is on the rise in Kentucky. Data show that between the year 2000 and 2003, childhood asthma hospitalizations increased 45 percent in Kentucky. Of the 14,753 Kentuckians hospitalized with an admitting diagnosis of asthma in 2003, 35 percent were children under the age of 14. Jefferson County led the state in childhood asthma hospitalizations during 2003 at 650.

Numerous studies have demonstrated the potential of air pollution to trigger asthma attacks in children. In fact, one of these studies found that asthma hospitalizations among children residing in the inner city of Louisville, where ozone and hazardous air pollutants are more prevalent, were twice the national average. In Kentucky, an estimated 312,000 children are at risk in 9 counties with unhealthy levels of ozone and particulate pollution.

Another contributing factor to asthma is secondhand smoke. The U.S. EPA estimates that between 200,000 and 1 million children with asthma have had their condition worsened by exposure to secondhand smoke. Kentucky has one of the highest adult smoking rates in the nation at 30.5 percent. A review of smoking rates reveals the Kentucky River Area Development District leads the state with a 40.6 percent smoking rate followed by the Cumberland Valley District with a 39.5 percent rate. Four of the 16 counties in these two districts (Clay, Bell, Harlan, and Perry) rank among the top counties with the most asthma hospitalizations during 2002 and 2003.

Behavioral and Learning Disorders.

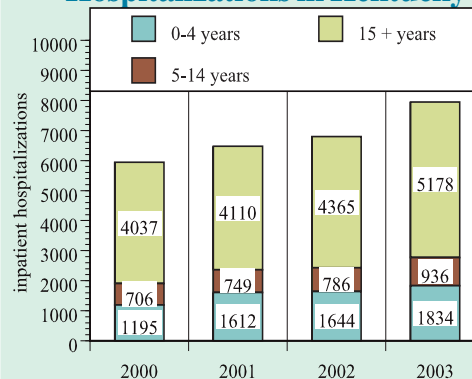
Research has also linked certain environmental toxins to learning and behavioral disorders in children. For example, lead has been identified as causing a range of health effects in children, from behavioral problems and learning disabilities, to seizures and death. An estimated 38 million homes in the U.S., or 40 percent, have lead-based paint. In Kentucky, an estimated 300,000 housing units may contain lead hazards.

Local health departments have been testing children under age 6 for lead since 1992. The number of screenings for lead poisoning has declined from a high of 42,250 in 1986 to a low of 19,438 in 2002. Of the blood lead tests conducted in 2002, unsafe levels were detected in 4.9 percent of the tests, which is above the national average of 2.2 percent.

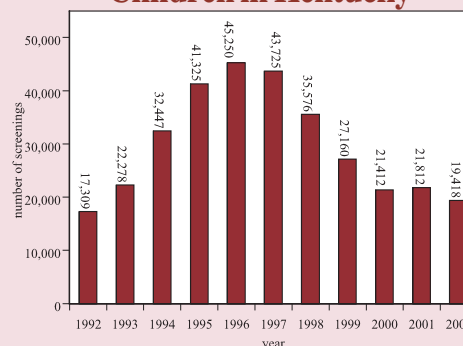
The greatest lead threat to children is lead-based paint and lead contaminated soil. Another threat is industrial releases of lead to the environment. In Kentucky more than 1 million pounds of lead and lead compounds were reported released to the environment by industries in 2002. Jefferson and Carroll County led the state in industrial lead releases.

[Continued page 8see Children's Environmental Health Report](#)

Childhood Asthma Hospitalizations in Kentucky



Lead Screening of Children in Kentucky



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EQC ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR PROGRAM

Reporting on environmental trends and conditions in Kentucky

Children's Environmental Health Report..continued from page 7

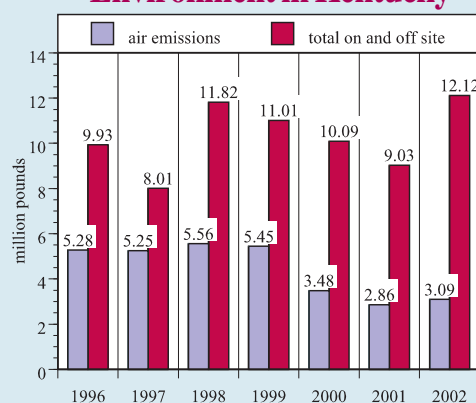
Cancer

EQC also reviewed childhood cancer in Kentucky. Cancer is the leading cause of death, by disease, among U.S. children under the age of 15. Most scientists now believe that environmental factors likely cause or contribute to many cancers in children. The environmental agents linked to childhood cancers include pesticides, radiation, solvents, chemicals, metals and secondhand tobacco smoke.

Leukemia and brain/nervous system cancers were among the leading causes of childhood cancers in Kentucky. Data collected by the Kentucky Cancer Registry reveal that the 5-year incidence rates for various pediatric cancers in the state were above the national rate, with the exception of leukemia.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that infants up to age two are ten times more vulnerable to carcinogenic chemicals than adults, and for some cancer-causing agents are up to 65 times more vulnerable. EQC found that about 5 percent of the 60 million pounds of industrial toxic chemicals released in Kentucky to the air in 2002 were listed as carcinogens. The good news is that these chemical releases have declined 43 percent since 1999. However, 3 million pounds of carcinogens were still released in 2002, so more is needed to reduce these harmful pollutants.

Industrial Releases of Carcinogens to the Environment in Kentucky



Waterborne diseases

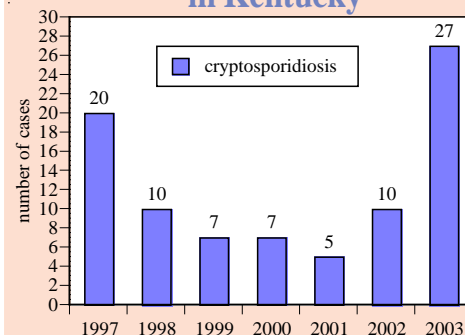
Waterborne diseases also threaten our children. An estimated 900,000 people in the U.S become ill each year from drinking contaminated water, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

During the past two decades, *Cryptosporidium*, a microscopic parasite, has become recognized as one of the most common causes of waterborne diseases in humans in the U.S. The report reveals that 86 cases of *Cryptosporidiosis* have been documented in Kentucky during the past six years. In 1999, 6 of the 7 documented cases were in children.

Since private wells and cisterns are not monitored under state rules, they pose the greatest public health risk. In Kentucky, half a million people rely on private wells, springs and cisterns for drinking water. During 2001, 59 percent of the 1,291 private water wells tested by local health departments detected fecal coliform, an indication the water may be contaminated.

Public drinking water, while considered the safest in the world, is also vulnerable to contamination. Most public drinking water contamination problems in Kentucky occur at smaller drinking water plants. During 2003, 2,488 Kentuckians were served by 13 public drinking water systems with persistent bacteria and turbidity violations. Two of these systems primarily served schools.

Cryptosporidiosis Cases in Kentucky



[Continued page 9see Children's Environmental Health Report](#)

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EQC ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR PROGRAM

Reporting on environmental trends and conditions in Kentucky

Children's Environmental Health Report..continued from page 8

Birth defects

EQC also reviewed birth defect incidence in Kentucky. Birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality in the U.S, accounting for almost 20 percent of all infant deaths.

In Kentucky nearly 1 of every 4 infant deaths in the state are caused by congenital anomalies, one of the highest rates in the nation, according to the University of Louisville Birth Defects Center.

Exposure to certain toxic pollutants have been linked to birth defects. For example, studies have associated birth defects with exposure to certain chemicals such as toluene and trichloroethylene. During 2001, 150,815 pounds of trichloroethylene and 3.5 million pounds of toluene were reported released to the air by industrial sources in Kentucky. Trends reveal that releases of trichloroethylene in Kentucky have dropped by 86 percent and toluene releases declined 46 percent during the past 9 years. But more progress could and should be made to reduce these releases.

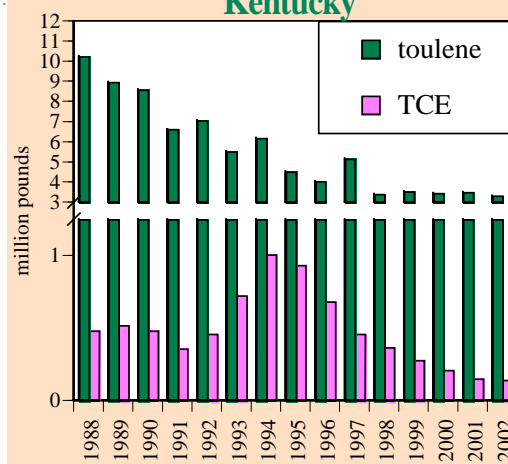
Recommendations

While Kentucky has several programs to address children's environmental health issues, these programs could be better coordinated and strengthened. With that in mind, EQC has recommended the state create a Children's Environmental Health Partnership composed of environmental and health experts from state government, academia and health care and environmental health professionals to develop a statewide action plan to

- ♦Strengthen Health Surveillance programs for children.
- ♦Build public awareness among physicians, health care providers, schools and employers.
- ♦Better utilize existing resources.
- ♦Evaluate and update state health standards.
- ♦Prioritize and target high risks.
- ♦Promote safe and pollution free indoor environments.

The Environmental Quality Commission's report on Children's Environmental Health is available at www.eqc.ky.gov or call EQC for a copy of the report and interactive CD-Rom at (502) 564-2150, ext. 160.

Releases of Trichloroethylene and Toluene and to the Air in Kentucky



The Environmental Quality Commission is a seven-member citizen board that advises officials on environmental matters, provides a public forum for the discussion of issues and monitors environmental conditions. The Environmental Quality Commission welcomes your input.

Telephone -- (502)564-2150 ext. 160.

E-mail -- EQC@ky.gov

Web site -- www.eqc.ky.gov

Address -- Environmental Quality Commission

14 Reilly Road., Frankfort, KY 40601

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EQC ACTIVITIES



Healthy Schools Focus of EQC October Meeting

The Environmental Quality Commission held a public meeting on Oct. 13 at Issac Shelby Elementary School in Louisville to discuss high performance and environmentally healthy schools in Kentucky. Federal, state and local officials discussed a number of issues including indoor air quality and toxic chemicals.

Indoor Air Quality. Kentucky has some of the highest asthma rates in the country, so ensuring that schools have good indoor air quality should be a top priority.

Environmental asthma triggers commonly found in school buildings are pests, mold resulting from excess moisture in buildings, secondhand smoke and pollutants found in schools from sources such as cleaning agents, perfumes and sprays.

Toxic Chemicals. Students, administrative staff, teachers, and facility managers all may use hazardous materials and pesticides. Therefore, schools are a good place to implement pollution prevention concepts to reduce or eliminate the generation of chemical pollutants and wastes that, if mismanaged, can be potentially harmful to human health and the environment. Chemical management creates a more healthy atmosphere for school occupants and the surrounding environment. Purchasing safer alternatives to toxic substances is one method of chemical pollution prevention. Proper storage, use, and disposal of chemicals is another key to maintaining healthy schools.



EQC and others viewed Shelby Elementary School's environmentally responsive heating, air conditioning and ventilating systems.

High Performance Schools. High performance schools are healthy and productive for students and teachers, in that they provide high levels of acoustic, thermal and visual comfort; large amounts of natural daylight; superior indoor air quality and a safe and secure environment. Kenton County, under the leadership of their superintendent, Dr. Susan Cook, is designing two high performance schools, a middle school and an elementary school. The schools are incorporating such features as daylighting, an energy-efficient geothermal heat pump system, efficient thermal envelope and many other measures.

Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool. The U.S. EPA has developed a new software program that will help states and schools districts proactively identify and address environmental health and safety issues that are of concern to students and staff at the facility. It consists

of a comprehensive database that allows schools to develop a customized on-site assessment program, assess and track school environmental conditions and quickly obtain guidance on methods to address potential issues. A Webcast is scheduled to provide information to interested school districts and states to demonstrate the tool, talk about what is expected from pilot states, and discuss the benefits of the program. Interested school districts submit statements of interest by contacting Wayne Garfinkel, (404)562-8982. For more information about the EPA Healthy School Programs visit <http://cfpub.epa.gov/schools/index.cfm>

Upcoming EQC Meetings Nov. 16. Annual EQC Work Meeting to set 2005 priorities.
Vest Lindsey House, Frankfort